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§ 92. Charles Frederick Meisner—as the announcement made by the bereaved members of his family inform us, died at Basle, on the second of May, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

For the details of the life of this excellent botanist and estimable man we must wait until the tributes to his memory arrive, which his associates in his native Switzerland and in the chief centres of science in Europe are sure to offer. Our present information is scanty. Pritzel, in the new edition of his *Thesaurus*, usually records the date and place of birth of botanical authors, but they are omitted in the present instance. We believe, however, that he was a native of the Swiss Canton, in which his professional life was passed. The orthography of his name is somewhat ambiguous. In the title pages of his works and in the signature to his letters, it is *Meisner*. In the family circular announcing his decease it is *Meissner*. The interesting Melastomaceous genus dedicated to him by his friend and preceptor, De Candolle, is *Meisneria*. In the new *Genera Plantarum* of Bentham and Hooker, it takes the form of *Meissneria*. That he was a pupil of De Candolle, at Geneva, appears from the preface to his earliest work, the Monograph of the Genus *Polygonum*. This was published in the year 1826, and he had already taken his degree of Doctor in Medicine. Not long afterward he was called to the chair of Botany at Basle, which he had held for more than half a century. His largest and his main independent work is his *Plantarum Vascularium Genera secundum Ordines Naturales digesta*, in two folio volumes, published between the years 1836 and 1843. In one volume the genera are *tabulis diagnosticis expositæ*; the other volume is a commentary, with very copious references. His most important publications in systematic botany, however, were contributed to the periodicals of the day, such as the *Linnaea*, and to the great works of his friends De Candolle and Von Martius, in which he was a most valued collaborator. For De Candolle's *Protrismus* he elaborated his favorite order, *Polygonaceæ* (the *Eriogonaceæ* excepted), and the equally large orders *Protuceæ*, *Thymeleuceæ*, and *Lauraceæ*, as well as the small order *Hernandiaceæ*. For the *Flora Brasiliensis* he worked up the same orders, also the *Convolvulaceæ* and the *Ericaceæ*. With these creditable and laborious productions his botanical career came to a close, nearly a dozen years ago, his health and powers having failed him. Yet in his declining years he was able to give attention to the very large and valuable herbarium which he had formed, and over which he lovingly lingered. As none of his children took to botany, his herbarium naturally became a chief solicitude. He corresponded with the writer of this notice and with Dr. Torrey upon the subject, deploring the probable necessity of its being broken up and dispersed in detachments after his decease, in case it remained in Europe. His anxieties were promptly allayed, and his remaining years made happy, through the purchase of this important herbarium, essentially upon the owner's own terms, by a member of the Torrey Club, who generously added it to the Torrey Herbarium. Dr. Torrey lived to see a portion of this collection in its new home, and Prof. Meisner, a year later, had the great satisfaction of know-

ing that the whole was safe in its chosen destination before he also went to his rest in a good old age. A. G.

§ 93. **First Field Day of the Club.**—The club having decided to hold field days this summer, a small company explored the Ramapo Mountains, near Sufferns, Rockland Co., on Saturday, May 23d.

The following interesting plants were found, *Clematis verticillaris*, DC.; *Epigæa repens*, L.; *Corydalis flavula*, Raf.; *Staphylea trifolia*, L.; *Polygala paucifolia*, Willd.; *Prunus Americana*, Marshall; *P. pumila*, L.; *Mitella diphylla*, L.; *Asarum Canadense*, L.; *Habenaria viridis*, R. Br.; *H. bracteata*, Reich.; *Orchis spectabilis*, L.; *Uvularia perfoliata*, L. The last named species was larger than we have ever before seen, viz., two feet high, with flowers an inch and a half long; the granular-roughened sepals and sharp-pointed anthers showed it to be *U. perfoliata* and not *U. grandiflora*, as we at first thought it. G. C. W.

§ 94. **New Fungi, by W. R. GERARD. No. III.**

**Sphœria rostrospora**, (*n. sp.*)—Perithecia orbicular, densely crowded, seated on a blackish, compact, fibrous stroma; asci cylindrical; spores ovate, binucleate, dark-brown, .0006' x .0002', furnished at each extremity with a hyaline beak.

Encircling the base of a stalk of *Inula Helenium*.

New Paltz Landing, Ulster Co., September.

**Patellaria similis**, (*n. sp.*)—Receptacles coriaceous, sessile, crowded, smooth, black; margin swollen, disk concave; spores elliptical, triseptate, nucleate, hyaline, .0006' x .0002'.

On dead branch of oak (*Quercus rubra*), Poughkeepsie.

This would seem to come near Cooke's *P. parvula* (which I have not seen), but differs in many respects according to the description in the "Hand-book."

**Patellaria dispersa**, (*n. sp.*)—Receptacles black, sessile, scattered, margined; asci cylindrico-clavate; spores varying from subpyriform to clavate, 4-8 septate, the cells filled with nuclei, .0014' x .0006' (at the broad end), pale brown.

Widely scattered over the bark of red cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*).

New Paltz Landing, Ulster County.

**Hysterium fibrisedum**, (*n. sp.*)—Perithecia linear elongated or oval, obtuse at the ends; lips closed; spores obovate, 7-8 septate with one long, longitudinal division, hyaline, often slightly bent.

Seated in long parallel series on the fibres of old wood of Robinia, Poughkeepsie. Scarce; I have found but a single specimen thus far.

**Hysterium vixvisibile**, (*n. sp.*)—Perithecia very minute, oblong-elliptic, black, opaque, without striæ; lips swollen, aperture slightly gaping; spores oblong, triseptate, pale brown, .0005' — .0006' x .0002'.

The perithecia are so minute as to appear like mere specks to the naked eye. The plants are extensively scattered over the bark, lying in all directions.

Poughkeepsie; on bark of dead, unknown branch.

**Peziza Cucurbitæ**, (*n. sp.*)—Cups sessile, when moist waxy,